

Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program 2000-2001 Inter-Regional

Fall Performance Report to the Regional Advisory Councils
and Federal Subsistence Board



Federal Subsistence Management Program
October 1, 2001

Acknowledgements:

The Office of Subsistence Management recognizes and commends the commitment and dedication of all the local, Tribal, State and Federal staff persons and organizations who have participated in the planning and implementation of the Inter-Regional 2001 Fisheries Resource monitoring Program. These efforts are instrumental in upholding the intent of ANILCA to provide for rural subsistence needs on Federal Conservation Units in Alaska.

**Office of Subsistence Management Fisheries Projects
FY 2001 Fall Project Status Reports
Yukon River Region**

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Office of Subsistence Management Fisheries Projects 2001 Fall Project Performance Reports

Executive Summary

This report is an overview of the 2001 Inter-Regional Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. The projects were funded through the USFWS Office of Subsistence Management (OSM), Fisheries Information System (FIS) Division. For information regarding Inter-Regional projects contact: Steve Klein, 3601 C St., Suite 1030, Anchorage, AK 99503, Phone: 907-786-3605, Fax: 907-786-3898, or e-mail: steve_klein@fws.gov.

2000 Projects

In 2000, two inter-regional projects were funded through OSM. There was one Stock Status and Trends (SST) project funded for \$28,340 and one Harvest Monitoring and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (HM / TEK) project funded for \$207,374. Project performance periods ranged from one to two years. The statewide subsistence fisheries harvest monitoring and strategy project (00-017 - HM / TEK) was completed in 2001. Final reports will be posted on line at the OSM home page www.r7.fws.gov/asm/home.html and will be made available through the Alaska Resources Library and Information Services (ARLIS) www.arlis.org. Copies of final reports are also available through OSM-FIS.

Completed Projects

00-017 Statewide Subsistence Fisheries Harvest Monitoring Strategy

The main objective of this study was to develop a statewide management strategy for subsistence harvest assessment and provide those recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board. This was achieved through the organization of a working group that reviewed the current subsistence harvest assessment programs and developed recommendations. Final Reports: Statewide Subsistence Fisheries Harvest Monitoring Strategy, Alaska Subsistence Fisheries 1999 Annual Report and Recommendations for a Unified Subsistence Fisheries Harvest Assessment Program

2001 Project Performance

One project (00-016), funded in 2000 operated in 2001 (\$34,761). In 2001, four new inter-regional projects were funded, totaling \$530,160. All of the funded projects address information needs for fisheries subsistence management, emphasize partnership and capacity development and have peer reviewed investigation plans.

Integrated data management and information transfer is a priority for tribal, state and federal inseason managers to make informed decisions. Two of the inter-regional projects deal specifically with data management. One project is documenting the regulatory history of subsistence management in the Arctic, Kotzebue, Norton Sound Yukon and Kuskokwim

(AYK) River regions to better understand the impacts of regulations on subsistence fishermen. The final two projects focus on improving the accuracy and reliability of subsistence harvest assessment data statewide. Performance reports for projects that operated in 2001 are listed by project number and title in this report.

Stock Status and Trends (SST)

00-016 Shared Information for Fishery Management in AYK

This project is developing a data management system for the Arctic, Kotzebue, Norton Sound Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers resource monitoring programs. The objective is to provide state, federal and local entities access to information needed to make informed management decisions. The first phase of the project involved the identification and inventory of existing data sources, storage format, constraints associated with the data and a principal contact for the information.

01-010 Regulatory History of Alaska Subsistence Salmon Fisheries Regulations-Yukon and Kuskokwim Management Areas

This project is compiling a history of subsistence fishing regulations in the Yukon and Kuskokwim River drainages from 1957 to present. The study addresses local concern over the impacts of regulations on subsistence harvest. A qualitative description of recent subsistence salmon fishing patterns and gear type will also be included in the final report.

01-154 Project Information and Access System

Currently there is no integrated archive or information management system for historic and new data important to subsistence management. This project is developing recommendations for the design of an interactive, integrated and accessible statewide database. The objectives are to develop a working group, produce a report on current available data systems and develop a prototype information system.

Harvest Monitoring and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (HM / TEK)

01-106 The Validity and Reliability of Fisheries Harvest Assessment Methods

This study was developed in response to concerns over the accuracy of current subsistence harvest assessment techniques. The project will evaluate data collected by subsistence harvest monitoring plans in the Kuskokwim River drainage and Southeast Alaska and make recommendations to improve the current harvest assessment procedures.

01-107 Implementation of Statewide Subsistence Fisheries Harvest Assessment Strategy

This project supports a working group that is sponsoring regional workshops to evaluate and recommend improvements for current subsistence harvest monitoring programs. The main goal of each workshop is to develop regional operational plans for the statewide subsistence harvest program.

Inter-Regional Projects

Stock Status and Trends (SST)

00-016 Shared Information for Fishery Management in AYK

**01-010 Regulatory History of Alaska Subsistence Salmon Fisheries Regulations-Yukon
and Kuskokwim Management Areas**

01-154 Project Information and Access System

SST/00-016 Shared Information for Fishery Management in AYK

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Study Objectives and Results

Primary Objectives

Compile a comprehensive inventory of existing sources of data useful for fishery management and document the inventory in a report.

Survey state and federal fishery managers and researchers, as well as public entities involved with fishery management, to determine the information needed to make informed fishery management decisions. Document responses, particularly major themes, in a report.

Secondary Objective

Correct or reconfigure important data sources identified in primary objective A) that are currently in a form that would be especially difficult to incorporate into a data management system (DMS).

Results

A progress report including a substantial portion of the data inventory was delivered to the Federal Office of Subsistence Management (FOSM) in June 2001. This report was distributed to FOSM employees however the project investigator has not received editorial comments. A meeting between FOSM and ADF&G was also held in June. The report and remaining work were discussed. Both completed and remaining tasks related to the data inventory phase of the project were listed in detail in the progress report. The majority of historic commercial, subsistence, escapement and age-sex-length data files were inventoried, however the inventory is not finalized. Some data were aggregated as it was inventoried.

Managers, researchers, and public entities involved in fisheries management have not yet been surveyed.

Consultations and Capacity Development

Creation of the data inventory did not involve capacity development or consultation outside the department. Consultations are planned during the last phase of this project involving a survey of managers, researchers and public entities involved in fisheries management

Methods

Problems were encountered during the data inventory portion of the project and are described in the progress report. Problems were mainly related to the large quantity of historic data, stored

in various formats and locations, to be included in the data inventory and completing the inventory by the date specified in the original agreement.

Schedule

The original agreement was modified and postponed the delivery date for the data inventory report until March, 2002 (Primary Objective A). In addition, the report summarizing the survey of managers and researchers involved in fisheries management was delayed until December 31, 2001 (Primary Objective B).

Staffing

No change

Budget

A letter was written to Rich Cannon of FOSM on June 18, 2001, describing expenditures. Funds provided from FOSM for this project were depleted and the remainder of the project will be funded by ADF&G. Experienced employees as well as funds from state vacancies were available particularly during February and March of 2001. These employees were needed for the data inventory phase of the project.

SST/01-010 Regulatory History of Alaska Subsistence Salmon Fisheries Regulations-Yukon and Kuskokwim Management Areas

Investigator(s) Information: Elizabeth Andrews, Ph.D., P.O. Box 698, Cerrillos, NM 87010, Phone: 505-670-7584, e-mail: paseo@starband.net; Gretchen B. Jennings, Division of Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, Phone: 907-267-2358, e-mail: Gretchen_Jennings@fishgame.state.ak.us

Study Objectives and Results

Objective

Compile a chronological history of subsistence salmon fishing regulations since Statehood (1957) of the Yukon River and Kuskokwim River drainages in terms of gear; fishing times; and methods and means.

Results

Work on this objective is currently underway. During the months of June and July, 2001, project staff were involved in three activities: (1) creation of a draft Access table structure for the subsistence regulations, (2) acquiring copies of applicable fishing regulations since statehood, and (3) organization and consolidation of regulations into easily manipulated Excel worksheets.

The structure of the main data files within the Access database was created. The tables contains the required variables to sort regulations by title, section, and paragraph as well as by date. Provisions were also made for the incorporation of editorial and historical notes into the regulations. Use of the appropriate sorts will allow reconstruction of the subsistence regulations in place at any time for a region.

No analysis of regulatory changes can be made until their compilation into the database format is complete. However, several observations are noteworthy. Subsistence fishing regulations have been in place since the first set of regulations implemented by the State of Alaska in 1960 following statehood. Several changes have been made to the organization of codified regulations and the placement of subsistence regulations, in 1968 and again in 1979 following the passage of the state's subsistence statute in 1978. The restructuring has added to the complexity of tracking annual changes to the regulations and setting up a searchable database.

Objective

Prepare a written overview of the subsistence salmon fishing patterns in each area derived from subsistence fishing studies.

Results

Work on this objective has not begun, other than to obtain copies of the reports containing information on subsistence fishing for Yukon or Kuskokwim drainage communities. The priority work at this time is completing Objective 1.

Consultations and Capacity Development

To date, the first objective of the study has been done entirely in partnership with the Data Management Support group of the Division of Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The developed the searchable database format in MS Access in consultation with the principal investigator; and prepared data entry/compilation sheets using a suitable format for entering text and numerical information. This format is easier to use for the data collection and entry phase of the study; whereas, the MS Access format will be used for data analysis. The principal investigator has finished locating the data and compiling it into the Excel worksheets.

There was a change in personnel in the Data Management Support group at , the partner research group. Charles Utermohle left to take a position with another agency; and is Gretchen Jennings is acting in his absence. Ms. Jennings is a long-time member of the Data Management group and has worked on all of the major data management and analysis projects for the Division of Subsistence. There has been no disruption to the project as a result of this change, nor is any anticipated. Dr. Utermohle has assisted by telephone and e-mail when asked.

To date, no consultations have occurred with regional fisheries groups, Native organizations, and managers on the topic of subsistence fisheries management in the regions. The priority work at this time is completing Objective 1. A standardized list of questions will be developed prior to the consultations to ensure an opportunity by each to reply to the same set of questions.

Methods

Current regulations (2000-2001) were obtained from the Legislative Affairs Agency using their electronic "Folio Infobase" of Alaska statutes and administrative codes. Prior year regulation booklets ("handy-dandies") were obtained from agency archives and files of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Division of Subsistence staff copied and prepared the booklets for scanning so that each page occupied a separate sheet. Searchable text files were created in PDF (portable document format) format using Adobe Capture. The text from relevant passages can be excerpted and pasted into electronic files without additional transcription. A CD-ROM was created that included all of the new PDF files and forwarded to the project leader. It is available for distribution upon request.

In addition to the creation of electronic files of regulations booklets, Division staff assisted the project leader with the creation of Excel files with all of the relevant database variables based upon 2000-2001 regulations as a framework for documenting historical regulatory changes. The Excel files will be imported into the database upon completion. The project leader is compiling the Excel files.

There were unanticipated structural changes in organization of the regulations in Title 5 of the Alaska Fish and Game Administrative Code, first in 1968 and again in 1979. These changes have resulted in the need to spend more time to determine how regulations were renumbered and where they were relocated to in new or other sections of the regulations. Also, considerably more lines have to be inserted into the database, so that it will still have meaningful search

capabilities. To accommodate this unforeseen situation, work on Objective 2 will not begin until Objective 1 and its associated products have been completed.

Schedule

The work contract was not received until May 15 rather March 1, thereby delaying the anticipated start date for the project. To accommodate this delay, the schedule for all tasks has moved forward by approximately two months as follows:

	<u>New Dates</u>	<u>Previous Dates</u>
Database set up:	June 1-30	[Mar. 1-31]
Archival research:	August 1-15	[May 1-31]
Data entry:	September 1-30	[June 1-15]
Computer analysis:	October 1-15	[June 15-30]
Report writing:	October 1-31	[July 1-31]
Report review:	November 1-30	[Aug. 1-Sep.30]
Final report:	December 1-31	[Oct. 1-31]

Staffing

As mentioned above, there was a change in personnel in the Data Management Support group at , the partner research group. Charles Utermohle left to take a position with another agency; and is Gretchen Jennings is acting in his absence. Ms. Jennings is a long-time member of the Data Management group and has worked on all of the major data management and analysis projects for the Division of Subsistence. There has been no disruption to the project as a result of this change, nor is any anticipated. Dr. Utermohle has assisted by telephone and email when asked.

Budget

There were unanticipated structural changes in organization of the regulations in Title 5 of the Alaska Fish and Game Administrative Code, first in 1968 and again in 1979. These changes have resulted in the need to spend more time to determine how regulations were renumbered and where they were relocated to in new or other sections of the regulations. Also, considerably more lines have to be inserted into the database, so that it will still have meaningful search capabilities. In order to stay within the existing budget and to accommodate this unforeseen situation, work on Objective 2 will not begin until Objective 1 and its associated products have been completed.

SST/01-154 Project Information and Access System

Investigator(s) Information: Bob Walker, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518-1599.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Investigators

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Subsistence Division	Gretchen Jennings (acting) (907) 267-2358 Gretchen_Jennings@fishgame.state.ak.us
Wildlife Conservation Division	Steve Schwartz (907) 267-2246 steven_schwartz@fishgame.state.ak.us

Federal Agency Investigators

USDA Forest Service	Calvin Casipit (907) 586-7918 ccasipit@fs.fed.us
National Park Service	Dave Nelson (907) 257-2683 Dave_nelson@nps.gov
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management	Chuck Miller (907) 786-3863 Chuck_miller@fws.gov
USFWS Fishery Resource Division	Steve Klosiewski (907) 786-3523 Steve_klosiewski@fws.gov

Study Objectives and Results

Objective

Convene a working group comprised of agency representatives with expertise in database design, computer hardware/software, and knowledge about pertinent historic and new data and information sources within their organization.

Results

Meeting of Fish & Game members of the working group has not yet occurred due to conflicts with critical summer projects and key staff turnover. The first meeting should occur in September, 2001.

Objective

Produce a report that document current centrally maintained information sources and systems, and which also outlines a recommended process and budget for implementing an interactive, integrated, and accessible information system.

Results

The report documenting current centrally maintained information sources and systems, and which also outlines a recommended process and budget for implementing an interactive, integrated, and accessible information system will not be available in draft form until several months into the project.

Objective

Develop a prototype of the recommended information system to demonstrate functionality and benefits.

Results

A prototype of the recommended information system to demonstrate functionality and benefits system will not be available in draft form until several months into the project.

Consultations and Capacity Development

Project funding was associated with Fish and Game's fiscal year 2002 budget (July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002). No meetings or contacts have been made since the beginning of the fiscal year due to conflicts with critical summer projects and key staff turnover. Fish and Game project investigators will be meeting in September to affirm project goals, budget and staffing, and roadmap of project process. It is anticipated that a meeting with federal representatives will occur shortly thereafter.

Schedule

Meeting of Fish & Game members of the working group has not yet occurred due to conflicts with critical summer projects and key staff turnover. The first meeting should occur in September, 2001.

Staffing

Charles Utermohle has left his position with Division of Subsistence, and Gretchen Jennings is acting in his capacity. Recruitment for a supporting analysis/programmer position will begin shortly.

Inter-Regional Projects

Harvest Monitoring and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (HM / TEK)

01-106 The Validity and Reliability of Fisheries Harvest Assessment Methods

**01-107 Implementation of Statewide Subsistence Fisheries Harvest
Assessment Strategy**

HM /TEK/01-106 The Validity and Reliability of Fisheries Harvest Assessment Methods

Investigator(s) Information: Gretchen B. Jennings, Division of Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, Phone: 907-267-2358, e-mail: Gretchen_Jennings@fishgame.state.ak.us; Don Callaway, National Park Service, 2525 Gambell St., Anchorage, AK 99503, Phone: 907-257-2408, Don_Callaway@nps.gov

Study Objectives and Results

Administrative Objectives - Year One (2001)

To create a technical subcommittee comprised of Native, State and Federal agency statisticians and analysts.

Results

An organizational meeting occurred on April 24, 2001. Invitations were sent via e-mail to interested parties, who had participated in the Fisheries Harvest Assessment Working Group. Representatives from local tribal, state, and federal agencies attended and Native representatives unable to meet in Anchorage noted interest in future participation. Rather than a subcommittee, all interested parties would be members of the technical committee.

Administrative Objectives - Year One (2001)

To promote improvement in harvest assessment systems by bringing together subsistence harvest assessment managers and the technical subcommittee to share current methods, to evaluate new procedures, and to describe practical limitations to controlled testing of sources of variation.

Results

Representatives for the Division of Subsistence salmon harvest assessment programs in Bristol Bay (Molly Chythlook), Northwest Alaska (Susan Georgette), Kuskokwim Drainage (Mike Coffing), and Cook Inlet (Ron Stanek) were invited to discuss their methods used to provide reliable estimates. The inability to conduct test-retest analysis of harvest reporting was stressed by these on-site managers. Response rates were generally very high and special efforts were undertaken to facilitate complete participation.

Administrative Objectives - Year One (2001)

To define additional tests comparing the Southeast subsistence salmon permit reports with data from the special subsistence salmon and steelhead harvest surveys.

Results

Community-level harvest assessments of salmon harvests by location were collected in the course of baselines subsistence harvest surveys in Wrangell, Petersburg and Yakutat.

Consultations and Capacity Development

Contacts/consultations were made with the following individuals

Alaska Department of Fish and Game:

Allen Bingham (Sport Fish)
Dave Caylor (Subsistence)
Molly B. Chythlook (Subsistence)
Michael W. Coffing (Subsistence)
James A. Fall (Subsistence)
Susan E. Georgette (Subsistence)
Hamachan Hamazaki (Commercial Fisheries)
Ronald T. Stanek (Subsistence)
Michael Turek (Subsistence)
Charles J. Utermohle (Subsistence)
Robert J. Wolfe (Subsistence)

Alaska Inter-Tribal Council:

Kay Wallis
Roland Shanks

Association of Village Council Presidents:

Jennifer Hooper

Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Tribes of Alaska:

Gordon Jackson

Chugach Regional Resources Commission:

Patty Brown-Schwalenberg

US Bureau of Land Management:

Taylor Brelsford

US Fish and Wildlife Service:

Jeffrey Bromaghin
Doug McBride
Steve Klein
Steve Klosiewski
Pat McClenahan

US Forest Service:

Cal Casipit, Steve Zemke

US National Park Service:

Don Callaway, Bob Gerhard, Dave Nelson

Staffing

Principal Investigator Charles Utermohle resigned his position with the Department of Fish and Game in mid-July. Gretchen Jennings will be acting for Charles until a permanent appointment is made.

Budget

No problems or changes to date.

HM /TK/01-107 Implementation of Statewide Subsistence Fisheries Harvest Assessment Strategy

Investigators Information: James Fall (267-2359) Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99518, jim_fall@fishgame.state.ak.us; Roland Shanks (563-9334), Alaska Inter-Tribal Council, 431 West 7th Avenue, Suite 201, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, rshanks@aitc.org.

Study Objectives and Results

Study Objectives

Systematic, cooperative development of operational plans for current subsistence fisheries harvest assessment programs.

Results

Personnel from Division of Subsistence and Division of Commercial Fisheries, Kodiak Management Area (KMA), are writing the first of these operational plans cooperatively. Prior to this project, no operational plan existed for the salmon/shellfish subsistence harvest assessment program in the KMA. Additional operational plans will be developed subsequent to the scheduled workshops identified in the IP.

Study Objectives

Training workshops in harvest assessment methods and use of harvest assessment data.

Results

The first scheduled workshop was held in Kodiak on May 10th and 11th with tribal representatives from six Kodiak Island villages, the Kodiak Tribe, and the Kodiak Area Native Association attending, along with representatives from the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council, Division of Subsistence, Division of Commercial Fisheries, US Fish and Wildlife Service (Kodiak Refuge), Kodiak/Aleutian Islands RAC, Kodiak Area Advisory Committee, and others. Kay Wallis, hired as a consultant by AI-TC, helped organize the workshop. The two-day workshop (plus an evening public meeting) highlighted current harvest assessment programs in the KMA and served as a forum for addressing issues related to the collection of reliable harvest assessment data. A detailed meeting summary is available. The meeting resulted in a number of recommendations from participants on how to improve the permit process, one of which was to establish local permit vendors in each of the six Kodiak Island villages. On June 5th and 6th, David Caylor from the Division of Subsistence and Joanne Shaker from the Division of Commercial Fisheries followed up on this recommendation and traveled to all villages to train permit vendors and provide them with permit issuing materials. Eleven additional workshops are planned during the life of the project, the next tentatively scheduled for September 11-12, 2001, to address Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound subsistence fisheries.

Study Objectives

Annual reports of Alaska subsistence fisheries for 2001 and 2002.

Results

These annual reports will be produced once all subsistence fish harvest data for 2001 and 2002 are received and analyzed. Report completion dates are currently projected as September 2002 for the 2001 report and September 2003 for the 2002 report. [Note that originally, the 2000 report was slated for completion by June 30, 2001, but this proved to be impractical because key data sets would not be available until August. This annual report will be completed in late September or early October 2001.]

Study Objectives

Updates to the Alaska Subsistence Fisheries Database with 2001 and 2002 data; further enhancements of Alaska subsistence fisheries website.

Results

The ASFDB is currently being updated with 2000 data. Time constraints associated with permit returns in most fisheries make August of the year following fishing the earliest timeframe in which data will reliably represent actual fish harvests. Therefore, the ASFDB will be updated with 2001 data in August/September of 2002 and with 2002 data in August/September of 2003. The Alaska subsistence fisheries website is currently under development with a general site outline in place and formatting underway. The website will be launched after internet-based data access and related issues are resolved, currently projected to be near the end of 2001.

Study Objectives

A final report.

Results

The final report will be written upon completion of all workshops and other tasks.

Consultations and Capacity Development

Consultation with Kodiak Island tribes and other subsistence fishers.

The Kodiak Management Area workshop that was held May 10-11 included consultation with area tribal representatives and others, and it provided ample opportunity for subsistence fishing issues to be discussed at length. Commercial Fisheries personnel came away from the meeting with a much clearer sense of how procedures used for assessing subsistence fish harvests affect area fishers, and they have taken a number of subsequent actions to help resolve issues raised.

Capacity building in Kodiak Island villages.

The travel of personnel to all six Kodiak Island villages to establish permit vendor systems provided training to one or more residents of each village in how to issue subsistence fishing permits and maintain permit records. The work was coordinated through the village tribal councils, and additional training and employment opportunities may be available in these locations for later permit collections and other follow-up data collection procedures.